

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

September 9, 2005

The Honorable Jerry Lewis
Chairman
House Committee on Appropriations
H-218 Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable David Obey
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
H-218 Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Lewis and Ranking Member Obey,


We are writing to urge you to restore funding for the Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) program to the FY04 level of \$659.1 million when you conference with the Senate on H.R. 2862, the Science, State, Justice, Commerce, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2006. While the House Committee on Appropriations did an admirable job in a tight budget year by providing \$366 million for JAG in H.R. 2862, we fear it is not enough in the face of this growing methamphetamine (meth) epidemic.


As you are aware, JAG funding is used by state and local governments for law enforcement, prosecution and court programs, prevention and education programs, corrections programs, drug treatment programs, and for planning, evaluation, and technology improvement programs. State and local officials across the country have expressed concerns that cuts to JAG funding could seriously undermine their ability to combat this terrible drug.

Meth production, trafficking, and abuse destroys lives, families, property, the surrounding environment, and is an incredible burden on local communities and law enforcement officials. State and local law enforcement officials throughout the country are being overwhelmed by the growing meth epidemic. A recent survey from the National Association of Counties entitled "The Meth Epidemic in America" highlighted the growing nature of the meth problem. Of the 500 counties surveyed, 58% responded that meth was their number one drug problem, and 87% of law enforcement agencies reported an increase in meth related arrests in the last three years. Additionally, in July of this year Attorney General Alberto Gonzalez said, "in terms of damage to children and to our society, methamphetamine is now the most dangerous drug in America, having surpassed marijuana."

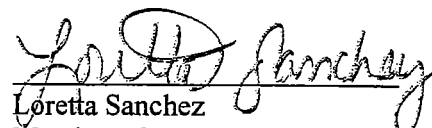
In order to slow the growing abuse, production, and trafficking of meth, Congress must do its part and provide state and local law enforcement officials with the resources and tools necessary to combat this terrible drug. We believe that funding JAG at the FY04 level of \$659.1 million is a step in the right direction. We urge you to do your best to ensure state and local governments have the tools and resources necessary to win the battle against meth.

Sincerely,



Lincoln Davis
Member of Congress


Ben Chandler
Member of Congress



Mike McIntyre
Member of Congress

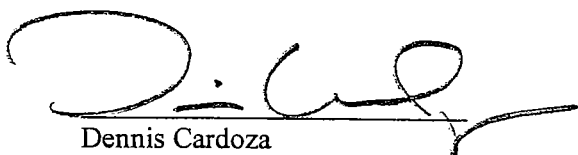

Loretta Sanchez
Member of Congress

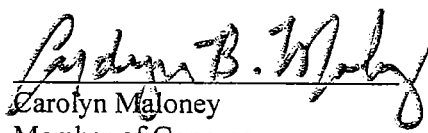

Nick Rahall
Member of Congress

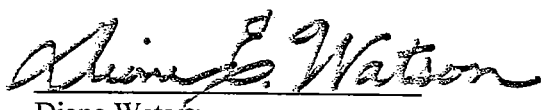

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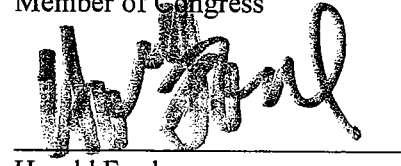

Adam Schiff
Member of Congress

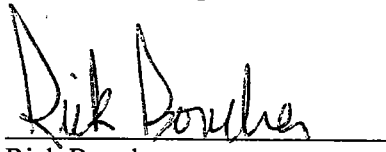

James Oberstar
Member of Congress

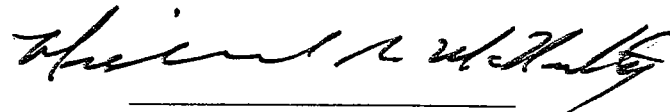

Bart Gordon
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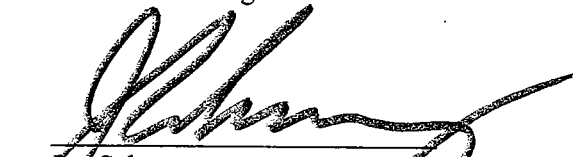

Mike Ross
Member of Congress

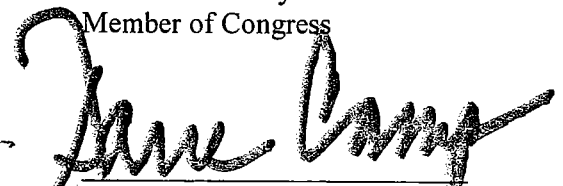

Emanuel Cleaver
Member of Congress

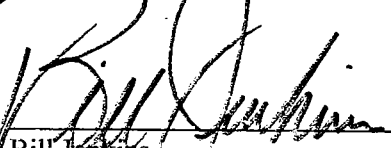

Harold Ford
Member of Congress



Rick Boucher
Member of Congress

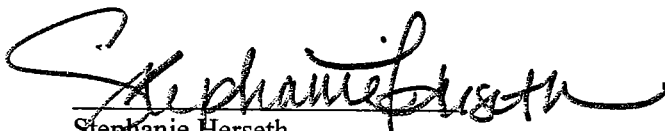

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